

We claim:

1. An edible composition which comprises tyrosine in an amount not to exceed about 0.4% by weight on a dry matter basis.
2. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tyrosine is in an amount from about 0.08 to about 0.38% by weight on a dry matter basis.
3. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tyrosine is in an amount from about 0.2 to about 0.36% by weight on a dry matter basis.
4. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tyrosine is from gelatin, lungs, whey or grains.
5. The composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises on a dry matter basis
 - (a) from about 0.01% to less than about 0.4% by weight of tyrosine,
 - (b) from about 0.1% up to just below the toxic level of phenylalanine,
 - (c) from about 7% to about 70% by weight of protein,
 - (d) from about 1% to about 60% by weight of fat,
 - (e) from 0 to 90% by weight of carbohydrate,
 - (f) from 0 to about 40% by weight of dietary fiber, and
 - (g) from 0 to about 15% by weight of nutritional balancing agents.
6. The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said carbohydrate is in an amount from about 10 to about 50% by weight on a dry matter basis.
7. The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said dietary fiber is in an amount from about 5 to about 25% by weight on a dry matter basis.
8. The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said nutritional balancing agents are in an amount from about 0.1 to about 4% by weight on a dry matter basis.
9. The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein on a dry matter basis said tyrosine is in an amount from about 0.2 % to about 0.36% by weight, said phenylalanine is in an amount from about 0.42 to 3% by weight, said carbohydrate is in an amount from about 10 to about 50% by weight, said protein is in an amount from about 30 to about 50% by weight, said fat is in an amount from about 20 to about 50% by weight,

said dietary fiber is in an amount from about 5 to about 25% by weight and
said nutritional balancing agents are in an amount from about 0.1 to about 4% by weight.

10. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said composition is a treat, an animal food or supplement.

11. The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein said composition is a canine food.

12. The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein said composition is a feline food.

13. The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein said composition is a farm animal food.

14. The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein said composition is a hog food.

15. A method of controlling the body weight of an animal which comprises
(1) determining if said animal needs to gain, loss or maintain weight,
(2) feeding an overweight animal an animal food which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 5, with a low tyrosine content, for a period until said animal reaches the desired weight or feeding an underweight animal an animal food with a high tyrosine content based on a dry matter basis of at least about 1.2% by weight for a period until said animal reaches the desired weight.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is overweight and is fed said food for a period of at least 4 weeks.

17. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is underweight and is fed the animal food with the high tyrosine content for a period of at least 4 weeks.

18. The method as claimed in claim 15, which further requires feeding said animal a maintenance ration after the animal has achieved the desired weight wherein the maintenance ration has an amount of tyrosine between the level of the low tyrosine content for the overweight animal and the high tyrosine content for the underweight animal.

19. The method as claimed in claim 16, which further requires feeding said animal a maintenance ration after the animal has achieved the desired weight wherein the maintenance ration has an amount of tyrosine between the level of the low tyrosine content for the overweight

animal and the high tyrosine content for the underweight animal.

20. The method as claimed in claim 17, which further requires feeding said animal a maintenance ration after the animal has achieved the desired weight wherein the maintenance ration has an amount of tyrosine between the level of the low tyrosine content for said overweight animal and the high tyrosine content for said underweight animal.

21. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the maintenance ration is fed once a day for at least 4 weeks.

22. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is a feline.

23. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is a canine.

24. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is a farm animal.

25. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said animal is a hog.

26. A method of reducing food intake and body weight of an overweight and obese animal which comprises feeding said overweight animal an animal food which contains the composition as claimed in claim 1 for a period of time such that said overweight loses weight.

27. A method of reducing food intake and body weight of an overweight and obese animal which comprises feeding said overweight animal an animal food which contains the composition as claimed in claim 5 for a period of time such that said overweight loses weight. X

28. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the period is for at least 4 weeks.

29. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the period is for at least 8 weeks.

30. The method as claimed in claim 26, which further requires feeding said animal a maintenance ration after the animal has achieved the desired weight wherein the maintenance ration has an amount of tyrosine greater than the level of the low tyrosine content for said overweight animal.

31. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said maintenance ration comprises tyrosine in an amount from 0.4 to about 1.2% by weight on a dry matter basis in the ration.

32. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said maintenance ration comprises tyrosine in an amount from 0.45 to about 1.0% by weight on a dry matter basis in the ration.

33. A method for maintaining the weight of an animal which comprises feeding said animal an animal food which contains tyrosine in amount of about 0.4% to about 1.2% by weight on a dry matter basis in the food for at least four weeks. ✓

34. The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein on a dry matter basis in said food said tyrosine is present in said food in an amount from about 0.45% to about 1.0% by weight and the food is fed for at least 8 weeks.

35. A method of increasing food intake and body weight of an underweight animal which comprises feeding said underweight animal an animal food which comprises tyrosine in a minimum amount of at least about 1.2% by weight up to just below the toxic level of tyrosine on a dry matter basis in the food.

36. The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said tyrosine is present in said food in an amount from about 1.9% to about 3% by weight on a dry matter basis.

37. An animal supplement, animal snack or animal treat which comprises tyrosine in an amount less than 0.4% by weight on a dry matter basis.

38. In edible composition for reducing the body weight of an animal wherein the improvement comprises tyrosine in an amount not to exceed about 0.4% by weight on a dry matter basis.